

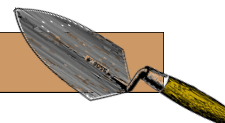


Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



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Editorial

As you might already know, we were successful with our latest bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and can now look forward to three years of *digging deeper and delving further* into Appleby's elusive early history. This is of course a huge success and thanks must all go to Martin Railton. His project bid is published on our website, where you can read a full description of what we aim to achieve. We plan to launch the project with a drop-in event in February. In the meantime, if you want to sign up to receive breaking information about DigAppleby, you can do so on Apparch's Facebook page.

Martin Railton also told me that we have received another donation of CWAAS transactions. Our thanks go to Fiona Wooler of Wardell Armstrong, who has now completed our collection for the years 1952 to 1989. And still on the subject of archives, does anyone have a copy of the Autumn 2003 newsletter. Facsimiles of all the early newsletters are on the website - apart from this particular issue - and it would be so nice to have a full set. Please contact me if you think you can help.

And finally I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a thoroughly interesting archaeological New Year. I look forward to seeing you at January's AGM where we will experience "Christmas in Medieval Appleby" - historical re-enactment in the company of the Red Wyverns.

Martin Joyce (Chair)

In Memoriam

As some of you may know, **Mike Godfrey**, our Treasurer for thirteen years until standing down at the last AGM, died suddenly in September. We shall badly miss his calm and ever-helpful presence. Our thoughts are with his wife Elizabeth and their three sons. Mike was a neighbour of mine here in Milburn and his loss has left a huge hole in our village community.

Martin

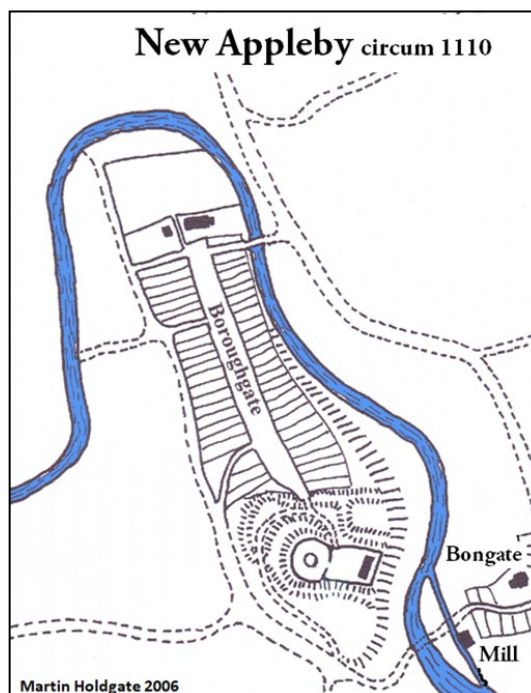
Dig Appleby – Digging Deeper awarded National Lottery support!

Appleby Archaeology Group has received a National Lottery grant for the next phase of the Dig Appleby heritage project, to be named ***Dig Appleby - Digging Deeper***. The grant will fund a 3-year project to discover more about the origins and development of the town of Appleby-in-Westmorland. This phase of the project will focus on the early Danish settlement at Bongate and the Norman medieval town. The results will be published online and displayed in the Tourist Centre, supported by a booklet summarising the archaeology of Appleby. Local volunteers will be encouraged to find out more about archaeology and local history by undertaking hands-on research. This will include training in archaeological investigation methods and participation in a series of archaeological surveys and excavations around the town supervised by professional archaeologists. The Archaeology Group will host a drop-in event in Appleby early next year to provide more information about its plans.

If you are interested in taking part or want to be included on the project mailing list, could you sign up by emailing Martin Railton with your name, a contact number, and home town (please do this even if you have provided such information previously). We will also be recruiting volunteers at the AGM in January 2019.

Email: info@cadrus.co.uk

Martin Railton



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Stanwick Camp – Cartimandua's capital? Apparch Summer visit



*Caratacus delivered to Ostorius
by Cartimandua
Francesco Bartolozzi 1781 -
1797*

On Sunday 16th Sept, members of the Appleby Archaeology Group visited Stanwick Camp, an enormous fortified Iron Age site lying just a few miles to the north-west of Scotch Corner. This visit was part of the Group's regular programme of summer walks and followed up an earlier talk by Professor Colin Haselgrove of Durham University in April.

Little is known about Stanwick Camp. There have only been two archaeological excavations - the first by Sir Mortimer Wheeler in 1951-1952 and the second, more recently by Professor Haselgrove. To describe the site as "enormous" barely does it justice. The outer fortifications take the form of a simple ditch and inner bank on a quite gigantic scale. Even today, 2000 years later, the ditches are more than 25 feet deep in places. You climb down into them only at serious risk to life and limb. And once in, it's quite difficult to get out. They would have been much deeper originally with trenches at the bottom, cut into the underlying limestone rock and the inner banks higher, topped by stone walls. Until you actually walk round the site, it is quite hard to take in the fact that these ditches extend for almost six miles and enclose an area of nearly 700 acres. Some estimates suggest Stanwick Camp might have had a population of around 80,000.

It seems fairly certain that the site was occupied by the Brigantes, a Celtic tribe who controlled most of North East England during the late Iron Age, although they only lived on the site for a relatively short period of time. Stanwick was first occupied just after the first Roman invasion in 55 and 54BC, reaching a peak not long after invasion and conquest by Claudius in 43AD. In fact it's possible its development was an indirect consequence of the invasion. The earliest structure, a small central enclosure has been dated to around 40BC while the massive outer fortifications appeared later, between 35AD and 70AD.

In his book entitled "**Cartimandua's Capital**", Professor Haselgrove suggests Stanwick might have been the location of the royal palace of Queen Cartimandua, the leader of the Brigantes between AD43 and AD69. She is mentioned by the Roman writer Tacitus as one of a

number of British leaders the Romans had to deal with during the invasion. From the outset Cartimandua seems to have realised that it was better to engage with the Romans rather than oppose them, and when Caratacus, a defeated British resistance leader, sought refuge with the Brigantes, Cartimandua promptly handed him over to the invaders. Famously, Caratacus was later paraded in chains through the streets of Rome in chains. Cartimandua was criticised by Tacitus for her treachery, but benefitted from it later after she parted from her husband, Venutius. When he later attempted to depose her, she was rescued by a Roman Legion. Interestingly, this was the IX Hispana, the famous "Legion of the Ninth" which subsequently marched North into Pictish Scotland and was never heard of again. Following a second attempt in AD69 when the Romans were busy elsewhere, Venutius finally prevailed and Queen Cartimandua disappeared from history. Standing in the sunshine at the centre of Stanwick, in an area where Professor Haselgrove's excavations had uncovered "high status" artefacts of Roman origin, Appleby Archaeology members were fascinated to speculate on the turmoil that might have taken place in this peaceful rural location two thousand years ago.

Martin Joyce

Was Rheged in Galloway and not Cumbria?

Ronan Toolis from Guard Archaeology faced a challenge when he spoke to a Cumbrian audience, at the Appleby Archaeology Group's November meeting. ***Was the royal stronghold of the "Dark Ages" kingdom of Rheged in Galloway and not Cumbria?*** Archaeological evidence suggests that it might have been.

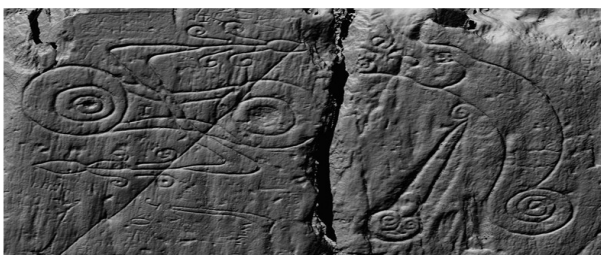
Of all the Britain's 6th century kingdoms Rheged is the most elusive. Some of the earliest surviving medieval poetry makes reference to the prowess of its king Urien and there are fragmentary historical sources referring to Urien's dominance in what is now northern England and southern Scotland but material evidence is lacking and historians are divided in their

opinion as to whether there was such a kingdom. Those who believe it did exist have tried to trace it through place names mentioned in the poetry of Taliesin. Locations as diverse as Carlisle and Cumbria, Galloway or Lancashire have been suggested as foci of influence. Would the excavations Trusty's Hill, a vitrified hill fort near Gatehouse of Fleet in Dumfries and Galloway provide that material evidence?



The hill fort had been excavated in 1960 when heat-scorched ramparts and a layer of charcoal rich soil were identified, but no dating evidence was obtained. Pictish carvings were discovered near the summit of Trusty's Hill. This was an unexpected find as their distribution is generally limited to what was Pictland in eastern Scotland, north of the River Forth.

The Galloway Pict's project was launched in 2012. The unusual location for the carvings suggested they could be modern forgeries. However laser scanning disproved this and specialist analysis revealed the carvers had detailed knowledge and understanding of Pictish artistic traditions, although the subject matter was not entirely typical. Perhaps the carvings were made by a local Briton familiar with Pictish art but expressing local ideas. Other Pictish carvings away from Pictland are found at Dunadd, Argyle, the royal site of the kingdom of Dalriada and the Goodwin site at Edinburgh.



During the 2012 investigation, the trenches excavated in 1960 were dug deeper to uncover new information about the fort's construction. This indicated that around AD 600, Trusty's Hill was a nucleated fort, a type of elite early medieval secular settlement found only in Scotland.

Ronan reviewed the evidence that would be needed to show this was a prestigious site. The few artefacts found in 1960 provided little information about the fort's occupation or age, but there were signs the ramparts had been burnt and a layer of charcoal rich soil, proved useful for carbon dating. Mature timber

was used extensively when building the ramparts. As wood was in short supply locally, this suggested a place of importance and implied the inhabitants controlled the available resources nearby. The timber and stone ramparts to the east and west of the summit were built circa AD 600, about the same time as defences and enclosure were constructed on the lower slopes. Only about 1% of the fort could be excavated and this proved insufficient to reveal a complete foot print. Nevertheless the excavation unearthed post holes, interior stone work, domestic material and metal working debris enough to allow the investigating archeologists to identify a domestic area on the highest point of the fort with industrial works below. The artefacts that were found, provided clear evidence of what was imported, manufactured locally and consumed.

A sherd of E-ware from Western France indicates the site was within a trade network stretching from western Britain to Ireland and Continental Europe and may have been exchanged for locally available metals. The detritus of metal working including crucibles and moulds for fine jewellery was subjected to X-ray fluorescence. This identified copper, lead, tin, gold and silver. Isotopic analysis of a lead ingot suggested it been mined close by. The artefacts found also included a Anglo Saxon style horse mount dated to 6th -7th century and a thistle headed decorated pin. Such pins have been found at "Dark Age" sites, all across south west Scotland.

Other industrial and domestic activity was indicated by evidence of wool spinning and leather working. Animal bones and domestic debris record feasts at which people ate cattle in preference to sheep or pig and preferred barley to wheat a diet identical to those eaten in other high status household in Scotland at the time.

Pictland in eastern Scotland, north of the River Forth. A large sunken feature found outside the fort and opposite the Pictish carvings puzzled the archaeologists. Although not a natural spring, water apparently collected in it and a drystone revetment suggested that it must have had some significance. Carved symbols found near an entrance and opposite a rock cut basin, have been observed in other early medieval Scottish power centres and resembled the "Inauguration Stone" at Dunadd.

Ronan emphasised that objects found at other royal sites in Scotland and Ireland were also found at Trusty's Hill Fort. These included continental imports, a defended enclosure, presence of gold and silver, fine jewellery production and weapons. Stones found near the summit were most likely to have been used as sling-stones to defend the fort. Royal strongholds are typically associated with nearby ecclesiastical settlements and there is a network around Trusty's Hill Fort, most notably at Whithorn.

Why did the cataclysmic destruction and vitrification occur not just at Trusty's Hill but at nearby Mote of Mark and other unexplored vitrified forts in the region?

Who were the conquerors? Although there is evidence of intermittent squabbling amongst the Scots, Picts and Britons, the British Kingdoms of the north were overwhelmed by Northumbria in the 7th century. This seems a more likely explanation. Support comes from number of early Anglo-Saxon place names and it is mentioned in Bede's Ecclesiastical History. One of Taliesin's poems speaks of a Northumbrian king Fflamddwyn the "Flame-Bearer".

Ronan concluded by pointing out that forts of this kind with their associated ecclesiastical settlements have not so far been found in Cumbria, suggesting the royal stronghold of the 'Dark Age' kingdom of Rheged might have been in Galloway.

Questions and a lively discussion followed before the Chairman thanked Ronan for a very interesting and informative talk, although he was uncertain how many of his Cumbrian audience were convinced

Phyllis Rouston

Hadrian's Wall Archaeology Forum – 20th Oct

The Forum is an annual all-day conference featuring talks for the general public on matters relating to the Hadrian's Wall frontier zone. I was offered a spare ticket and went along to find myself impressed, both the quality of the talks and the free tea, coffee and shortbread!

The star of the conference was **Professor Ian Haynes** of Newcastle University who opened the proceedings with a dazzling account of non-invasive techniques – resistivity, magnetometry, lidar and "structure from motion" models (= 3D models typically constructed from high-quality drone photography). These had been lavishly employed to reveal hidden archaeological features at Beckfoot Roman fort (on the Solway coast between Allonby and Silloth) and at Corbridge. Vehicle-mounted ground-penetrating radar devices were used to detect features at up to 2.5m depth. So impressive was the level of detail achieved that someone asked "*so is excavation actually necessary now?*" The answer was "*yes*" of course, but geophysics is clearly becoming a standard preliminary to any conventional archaeological investigation.

Rob Collins, also of Newcastle University, described a £1.3m Hadrian's Wall Community project (WallCap) designed to investigate erosion of the wall and answer questions about "*where did the stone come from?*" and "*where did it go to?*". A lot of the money was being used to develop a range of "apps" to link up an army of volunteers they hope to recruit and to handle the massive amount of data – surveys, pictures and models they expect to generate. You can read about some of this on their website <wallcap.ncl.ac.uk>

David Mason, who some of us will remember as our guide on a visit to Binchester a couple of years ago, brought us up to date with developments there. The headline news is that the somewhat makeshift shelter covering the bath-house remains has been replaced by an eye-catching new building complete with "terracotta" roof and "faux-ancient" interior décor. It looks very fine indeed.

It was good to see **Marta Alberti** again too, who you may recall talked to the group about Vindolanda

recently. She is looking forward to a couple of seasons investigating those mysterious round huts and introduced a pair of bright young PhD students working on new and interesting projects. It's possible that at least one of these may feature shortly in our own lecture programme.

The day concluded with a talk about a European version of our Roman Wall – a 500 kilometre wooden rampart stretching between the Rhine and the Danube.

It all made for a very interesting day.

Martin Joyce

Winter Lecture Programme

Thorns - a deserted Medieval Village at Ribbleshead

David Johnson

Thursday 13th December

High on the limestone fellsides near the Ribbleshead Viaduct lie the atmospheric ruins of Thorns, a medieval settlement. After two years of intensive surveying and excavation, Dr David Johnson has been able to construct a comprehensive picture of the history of this fascinating site from monastic times to the present.

AGM and Members Evening

Thursday 10th January

Red Wyverns - AGM and Members Evening

"Christmas in Medieval Appleby" - medieval re-enactment by "The Red Wyverns" led by local archaeologist James Hodgson. Cookery, medicine, swordplay and lethal winter sieges!

Investigating lead tokens from Holm Cultram Abbey

Kate Renwick

Thursday 14th February

Excavation at Holme Cultram Abbey produced 44 lead or pewter tokens (13-16mm diameter) thought to have come from the Chapter House. Most are bi-faced with an image on one side and lettering on the other.... the most common is a boat/scales image on and the letters 'SEL'. Kate presented her observations at a specialist conference. It will be interesting to learn their meaning.

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group

June Hill

Thursday 14th March

A Roman Bath house in Stanwix

Frank Giecco

Thursday 11th April

Preliminary work on the footings for the new Carlisle Cricket Club pavilion discovered the sub-structure of a Roman building. An archaeological investigation subsequently uncovered the remains of a classic Roman bath house with thick walls, heating system, a 'main' drain, oven and part of a road. Experts believed the site was regular meeting place for soldiers from the elite, Stanwix-based Petriana cavalry regiment.